

ART 34 AMDT

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New claims

1. A method for cleaning an incubator (1) having temperature regulating means (30) for regulating the temperature in a climatic chamber (32) during the incubation process, the method involving disinfecting the incubator (1), or at any rate the climatic chamber (32) and/or removable parts (4, 5) present in it during the incubation process, wherein the disinfection comprises a disinfecting heat treatment, characterized in that the heat treatment of the incubator (1), or at any rate the climatic chamber (32), is carried out in the incubator (1) using the temperature regulating means of the incubator (1) provided for the incubation process.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the temperature for the disinfecting heat treatment exceeds 50°C, in particular exceeds 55°C.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the heat treatment comprises one or more steps in which the incubator (1), or at any rate the climatic chamber (32) and/or the removable parts (4, 5) belonging in it, is heated to a specific temperature for a length of time.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, in which the length of time in one of those steps is at least 25 minutes, and the specific temperature is at least 50°C, preferably approximately 58 to 65°C.
5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the specific temperature in the one or more steps is a maximum of 150°C, and preferably a maximum of 125°C, such as a maximum of approximately 100°C.
6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which during said heat treatment said removable parts (4, 5) belonging in the climatic chamber are placed in the climatic chamber (32).
7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which prior to the disinfection, the incubator (1), or at any rate said climatic chamber (32) and/or said removable parts (4, 5) belonging in it, are cleaned with water.
9. An incubator (1) comprising a climatic chamber (32) and temperature regulating means (30) for regulating the temperature in the climatic chamber during the incubation process, characterized in that the temperature regulating means (30) are further designed for disinfecting, by means of a disinfecting heat treatment, the climatic

chamber (32) and any parts (4, 5) present in said chamber (32), in particular at temperatures above 50°C, preferably above 55°C.

9. An incubator as claimed in claim 7, in which the temperature regulating means are designed to heat the climatic chamber for the disinfecting heat treatment to a predetermined temperature during one or more steps for a predetermined length of time.

10. The incubator as claimed in claim 8, in which in one of those steps the predetermined length of time is at least 25 minutes, and the predetermined temperature is at least 50°C, preferably approximately 58 to 65°C.

- 10 11. The incubator as claimed in claim 8 or 9, in which in the one or more steps the predetermined temperature is a maximum of 150°C, and preferably a maximum of 125°C, such as a maximum of approximately 100°C.